

6/16/17 Hegor Jensen

Brothers and sisters in Islam, the first twenty days of Ramadan are now behind us, gone, with all of our deeds. They will never return...Did we take advantage of those days by filling them with good deeds or were we negligent in seizing the endless opportunities that Allah provided us to attain forgiveness during those days? A question we all need to ask ourselves now, while we are entering the best 10 nights of the year. For those who were taking advantage and seizing the endless opportunities to do good deeds, then now is your time to increase, now is the time to shift into 5th gear, now is the time to put in the overtime, now is the time to tighten your belt and roll up your sleeves, now is the time to exert yourselves more and strive to attain as much reward as you possibly can. And as for those who may have been a little negligent, lazy, ~~complacent~~, or distracted in the beginning of Ramadan; you still have time to do good, don't lose hope, nor despair; now is the time to get on track, now is the time that really counts, now is the time to come back to Allah and attain that forgiveness you've always been looking for!

Our guest came, and stayed with us for twenty days, now it's getting ready to leave. 10 more days and it will be out the door. Ramadan came and opened the doors of paradise for us, Ramadan came and sealed the doors of the hellfire for us, Ramadan came and chained up the evil shayateen and the negative things that can tempt us be disobedient to Allah, Ramadan came and called out to us: O you who wants good...come forward....Ramadan came and called out to those who want bad....stay away and abandon evil and disobedience to Allah....Ramadan came and every night of it...Allah frees people from the Hellfire...Were we from amongst those people? Were we from those who responded to Ramadan's call to increase to do good deeds. Were we from those who stayed away from the temptations of the Shaytaan? And are we from those who want to be the inhabitants of Allah's paradise. that place Allah has prepared for his obedient servants...

The eternal abode that Allah has waiting for His obedient servants. The abode in which the inhabitants will enter in groups until they reach the gates and the gatekeepers will say:

وَسَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِذَا جَاءُواهَا وَقِيلَتْ لَهُمْ أَبُوَابِيهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَيْرَنَاصَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوا فِي دِينِ

والفجر عشر
وليل عشرين

لا تقنطوا
من رحمة
الله
يعجز الذنوب
بجميعها

انما الاعمال
بالنوايا
"Actions depend upon their endings"

Allah
Paradise

'And the ones who were constantly conscious of their Lord will be led to paradise in groups until they reach it and it's gates will be opened and it's gatekeepers will say: peace be upon you, you have done well, so enter here to abide for ever'

Then the angels will come in from every gate and greet the inhabitants of paradise as well saying peace be upon you for that which you were patient! How

excellent is the final abode, as Allah says:

(وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ)

So what have we done in the past 20 days of Ramadan. Have we done enough

good to attain the paradise, were we patient enough to be granted Allah's

excellent abode? were we patient by abstaining from food and drink, were we patient in dealing with our family members our wives and children...

And What were ~~our~~^{we} goals in this Ramadan.... Was ~~it~~^{our fast} purely physical.... meaning that ~~you~~^{we} only abstained from food and drink and intimacy only while still engaging in backbiting, slandering, lying, cheating, and rumor spreading.... or was it physical and spiritual in which we abstained from food and drink while at the same time abandoning these ~~and~~ bad types of behavior throughout the day and the night?

Brothers and sisters Fasting was prescribed for us so that we can attain piety and a ^{gain} higher consciousness of Allah. Fasting is a physical and spiritual exercise that should aid the believer to abandon excessiveness/excessiveness in eating, drinking, intimacy and talking... all things ^{because} ~~that~~ if done in excess, destroy and sicken the heart and distracts it from the path to paradise. Fasting enables the heart to empty itself of its desires which divert it on its journey to paradise. Have our hearts been emptied from the things that take us away from Allah's remembrance?

We've been attending Taraweeh for the past twenty days, listening to the recitation of the Quran...

After listening to the Quran... do we know more about what Allah loves for us to do? Do we know more about what Allah dislikes ~~for us to do?~~ Do we want to have the characteristics of the believers that Allah mentions in the Quran. Are we taking account of yourselves so we don't have characteristics of ~~the~~ hypocrites and disbelievers that Allah mentioned in the Quran. This is the wisdom behind the recitation of the Quran in Taraweeh, so that we can ponder over Allah's verses and be reminded so that we can implement the Quranic guidance into our lives?

Has the recitation of Quran had an affect our hearts? Has the recitation of the Quran encouraged us to do good deeds so as to be from amongst the inhabitants of paradise. ~~Allah's paradise~~ ^{the place} that contains things that eyes have never seen, ears have never heard, hands have never touched and imaginations have never thought of. ^{Some of the descriptions of Allah's paradise that have been recited to us in the Quran and Sunnah describe that}

^{that} Allah's paradise ~~that~~ contains houses made of golden and silver bricks, Allah's paradise ~~that~~ contains rocks and stones made of pearls and jewels, Allah's paradise ~~that~~ ^{has} soil ~~is~~ ^{has a} made of sweet smelling perfume like musk and saffron. Allah's paradise ~~that~~ ^{which is} roof ~~is~~ Allah the Most High's throne. Allah's paradise ~~that~~ ^{has} trees ~~have~~ ^{with} trunks of gold and silver and fruits ~~are~~ ^{is} sweeter than honey and softer than butter...they're never rotten....the leaves of the trees are softer and smoother than velvet and silk...Allah's paradise ~~that~~ ^{has} ~~have~~ rivers of honey, rivers of milk, rivers of wine, and rivers of crystal clear water....no filters needed, no pasteurization needed for the milk...The food of the inhabitants is the freshest of fruits and poultry and meats ^{all} that they desire...Their drinks are ginger, kafoor and tasneem...Their drinking cups are made of crystal clear gold and silver...The shade in the paradise is one that if a fast rider rode underneath it, he wouldn't escape if for one hundred years...the clothing of the people of paradise are made of silk and gold, their faces are that of the image of the full moon, all of the inhabitants of the paradise are 33 years of age in the image of Adam. The sounds that the people of paradise will hear is the singing of their wives from the Hoor al Ayn and the voices of the angels, the prophets and the speech of Allah the most magnificent. The leaders of the inhabitants of paradise will be Muhammad, Abu Bakr and Umar...no oppression, no transgression, no injustice....the servants of the inhabitants of paradise will be young boys of everlasting youth who resemble scattered pearls...The wives of the inhabitants of paradise will be young full featured women whom the sun runs along the beauty of her face, light shines from between her teeth if she smiles, she never increases in age except in beauty, her youth never fades, no garment can be created to match her beauty, whoever is with her will never become bored, her attention is restricted to her husband alone, she desires none but her husband, she is the sole object of her husband's attention, and he is the sole object of her attention. And if you were to ask about

the day of increase in reward and the visit of Allah the Almighty and the sight of His face, then on that day ~~called~~ ^{one} will call out: 'O people of paradise!' Your lord-blessed and exalted-requests you to visit Him, so come to visit him! So they will respond: we hear and we obey!

So the Lord-the most magnificent-will laugh at them and say: O people of paradise! Where are those who used to obey me without having ever seen me?

This is the day of increase. This is the day of reward....

5 times a day for my sake....

So where are those who are obedient to Allah even though we haven't seen Him in this world. Where are those who pray five times a day on time, remembering that Allah is watching us? Where are those who pay their Zakat being certain that Allah will reimburse them and give them more wealth and blessings in their ~~wealth~~ ^{lives}? Where are those who are dutiful to their parents at home as well as in public knowing that Allah hears every word that we utter? Where are those husbands who treat their wives with respect, dignity and honor because they know that Allah sees them inside their homes? Where are those who abandon lying, cheating in business transactions, slandering, backbiting, stealing, rumor spreading, using intoxicants, and fornication because they know Allah is watching them?

^{indeed} Paradise will be your abodes O believers, if ^{those are your traits,} so work hard to attain it.

These should have been some of our goals during these past 20 days of Ramadan. If not, then let us rectify our intentions now, so that we can seize the great opportunities to be forgiven and receive Allah's mercy and pardon during these remaining 9 or 10 nights of this blessed month, ~~indeed~~ ^{as} these last 9 or 10 nights in Ramadan are the best nights throughout the year. These nights contain ^{one} night, that is better ^{than} 1000 months. Worshipping Allah on this special secret night within these last ten nights, is better than worshipping Allah for 83 years, and entire lifetime.

As Allah mentions in Surah Al Qadr:

(إنا أنزلناه في ليلة القدر - وما أدراك ما ليلة القدر

ليلة القدر، خيرٌ من ألف شهر تنزل الملائكةُ وروحُ
قِيَامًا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ - مَلَأَمٌ هِيَ حَتَّى مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ)

where are those who used to fast because of me, were are those who prayed

This is the believers feel a bode, the external a do be, not this danya filled with hardships, sickness, death, wars, oppression, injustice, poverty, hatred, bigotry and dislike... that only Allah knows

Brothers and sisters

If you've been negligent in practicing ^{Islam} ~~your religion~~ throughout your life, lazy in doing what pleases Allah, ^{you've been} disobeying your parents, ^{disrespecting} disrespecting your elders, your teachers, negligent in practicing the sunnah... then now's your time to get back on track...repent to Allah, hasten in seeking forgiveness from Allah right now, don't hesitate, As Allah says:

سَابِقُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ

Brothers and sisters →

Start exerting your efforts with sincerity, and a pure heart, because worshipping Allah on this one night-the night of decree- can change your life and grant you more reward that one could possibly earn in an entire lifetime. The night of Decree is the night that the angels descend and fill the skies and the earth, the presence of the angels on this night more numerous than the stones and rocks on the ground. The night of decree is a night that Allah fills with peace, tranquility and goodness...so work hard my brothers and sisters in trying to search for it during these last ten nights. Fill your days with fasting, abstaining from bad behavior, giving charity, helping your parents, helping the poor...and fill your nights with supplication to Allah, recitation of the Quran, secret charity, prayer, and pondering over Allah's greatness and mercy.

Second Khutbah

Brothers and sisters...the door of the paradise are opened for ^{us} ~~you~~... the opportunities for forgiveness are available here and now...let's work hard to attain it during these remaining days and nights of Ramadan....

The sale of the year's next - one night of worshipping for 89 years of reward

The Prophet Muhammad said: 'whoever worships Allah on the night of decree with sincerity and seeking Allah's reward, then he will have his previous sins forgiven'

من طوبى ليلة القديمتنا واحساننا

What did our beloved prophet do during these last ten night of Ramadan?

Aishiah said: 'the prophet Muhammad would increase in his good deeds during these last ten nights, he would stay up at night and wake up his family as well, and work harder during these nights and days more than any other time.

Good deeds are determined by their endings as the prophet said: *إنما الأعمال بالنية*
 Now is the time to compete in doing good deeds my brothers and sisters as Allah says in the Quran:

(جَاهِدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَمَا جَاهِدُوا لِنَفْسِكُمْ إِنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ لَأَعْيُنُكُمْ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِذِي فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ)

Compete with each other in hastening towards forgiveness from your lord by repenting to him and doing good deeds and continuing upon them after Ramadan, as this is the sign of the acceptance of our fasting and prayers; and being steadfast upon goodness after Ramadan will make the path of paradise easy for us.

Brothers and sisters, during these last days and nights of Ramadan the Prophet Muhammad used to seclude himself in the masjid, to fully concentrate and occupy his heart with the complete remembrance of Allah and focus and ponder over Allah's commandments in the glorious Quran.

Secluding oneself to the masjid is a sunnah, and a physical and spiritual exercise for the heart, body and mind to enable us to focus and concentrate on Allah's commandments, to purify our hearts and souls from the distractions of our busy lives and attachments to the worldly adornments of our businesses, occupations, families, children and wealth.

During I'tikaf one should busy oneself with the remembrance of Allah, recitation of Quran and thinking of how one can attain Allah's pleasure. This leads one to feeling content and satisfied with Allah ^{alone} ~~instead of the people~~, causes one to be satisfied with Allah's religion over all other worldly things, it also leads one to loving Allah and his messenger more than one's self, family, wealth and property.

I'tikaf prepares one for being at peace with Allah alone on the day loneliness in the grave, when there is no one else to give him/her comfort, nor anyone to grant tranquility or peace, except Allah alone. And this is one of the greatest goals of I'tikaf.

So take advantage of these remaining days and night of Ramadan my dearly beloved brothers and sisters, use them to get closer to Allah, treading the path of righteousness that will enable us to be from amongst the inhabitants of Allah's paradise which Allah has opened the doors for us during this month of Ramadan. Now is the time to work harder, roll up your sleeves, increase your supplications, increase your charity, refine your behavior, be more dutiful and respectful to your wives and your families, reach out to your neighbors and the needy, learn more about your religion, and continue to be obedient to Allah after Ramadan, obeying Him with your hearts, your limbs and your tongues....so that all of our good deeds during this month will be accepted by Him.

Announcement for Sunday School

